

June, 27, 2018

# 2018 MAG Convention “Image of the Self”

Heb-2-06 Self-Identity, Risk and Health Perception Among Adolescents

## Understanding early HIV risk among young women and young female sex workers to inform the design and implementation of HIV prevention programs in Ukraine and the region

*On behalf of the Transitions team*

Daryna **Pavlova**, NGO Ukrainian Institute for Social Research after Oleksandr Yaremenko (Ukraine)

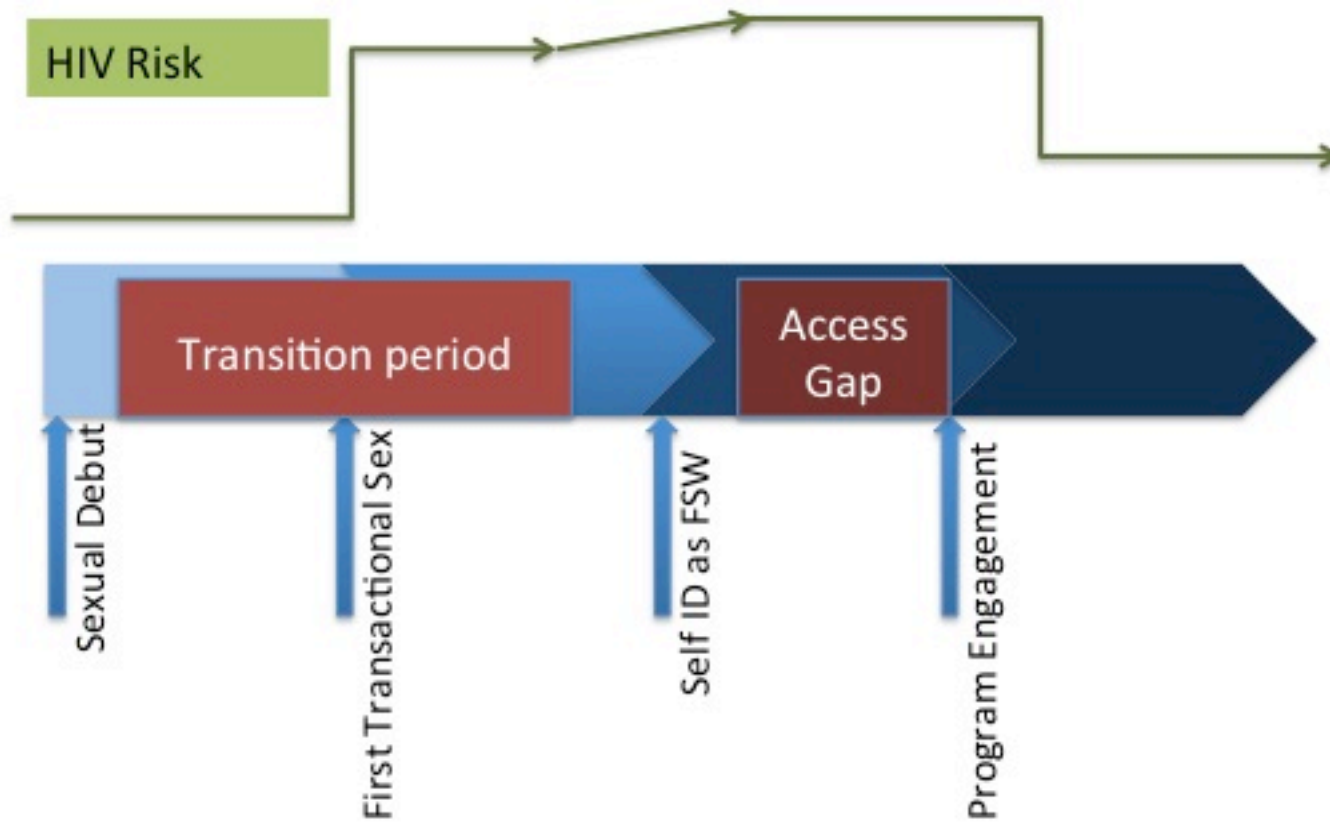
Marissa **Becker**, Center for Global Public Health, University of Manitoba (Canada)



# Study Objectives

- To characterize the factors that influence HIV risk during:
  - the **transition period** from first sex until self-declared entry into sex work
  - the **access gap** (after entry into formal sex work but prior to HIV prevention program engagement) among young FSWs
- To examine the importance of this early HIV risk for epidemic control

# Early HIV/HCV risk



**Figure 1: Schematic of the central hypothesis**

# Transitions Study Design

Mapping and Population Size Estimate

```
graph TD; A[Mapping and Population Size Estimate] --> B[Sampling Frame Development and Sample Size Calculation]; B --> C[Behavioural Survey + Rapid Test]; B --> D[Biological Survey (Dried Blood Spots)]; B --> E[Qualitative Study];
```

Sampling Frame Development and Sample Size Calculation

Behavioural Survey  
+ Rapid Test

Biological Survey  
(Dried Blood Spots)

Qualitative Study

## ***Inclusion criteria:***

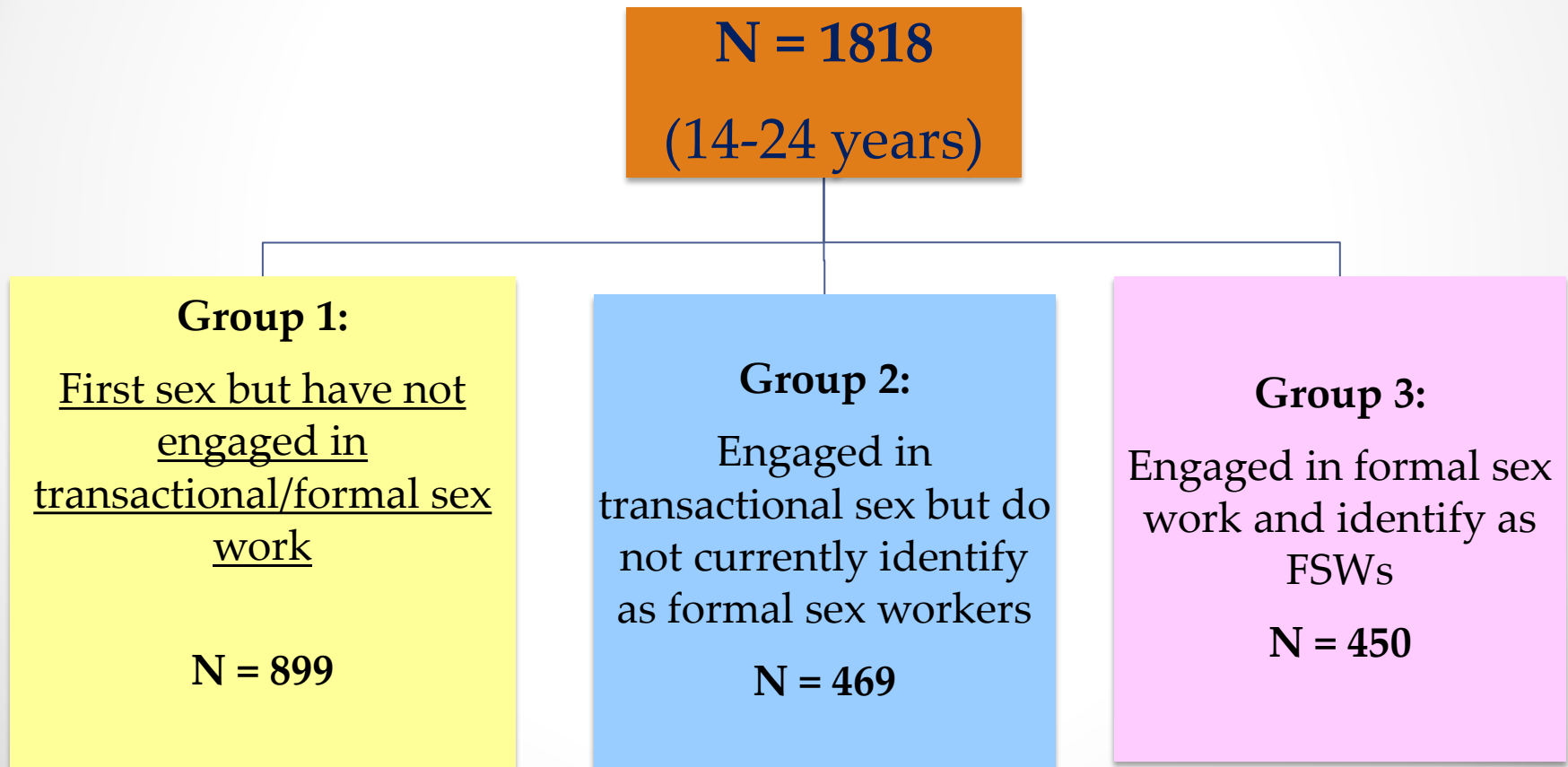
1. Age 14-24
2. Experience of vaginal or anal sex

# Mapping

- Total of 891 hotspots identified. 778 hotspots validated to be active.
- 279 locations were FSW hotspots.
- 526 locations were visited by women seeking partners for casual and transactional sex
- **50%** known to organizations that provide services to FSWs.
- Among 778 hotspots, only in 3,5% there was an overlap between the FSW and casual/transactional sex hotspots

# Cross-Sectional Study

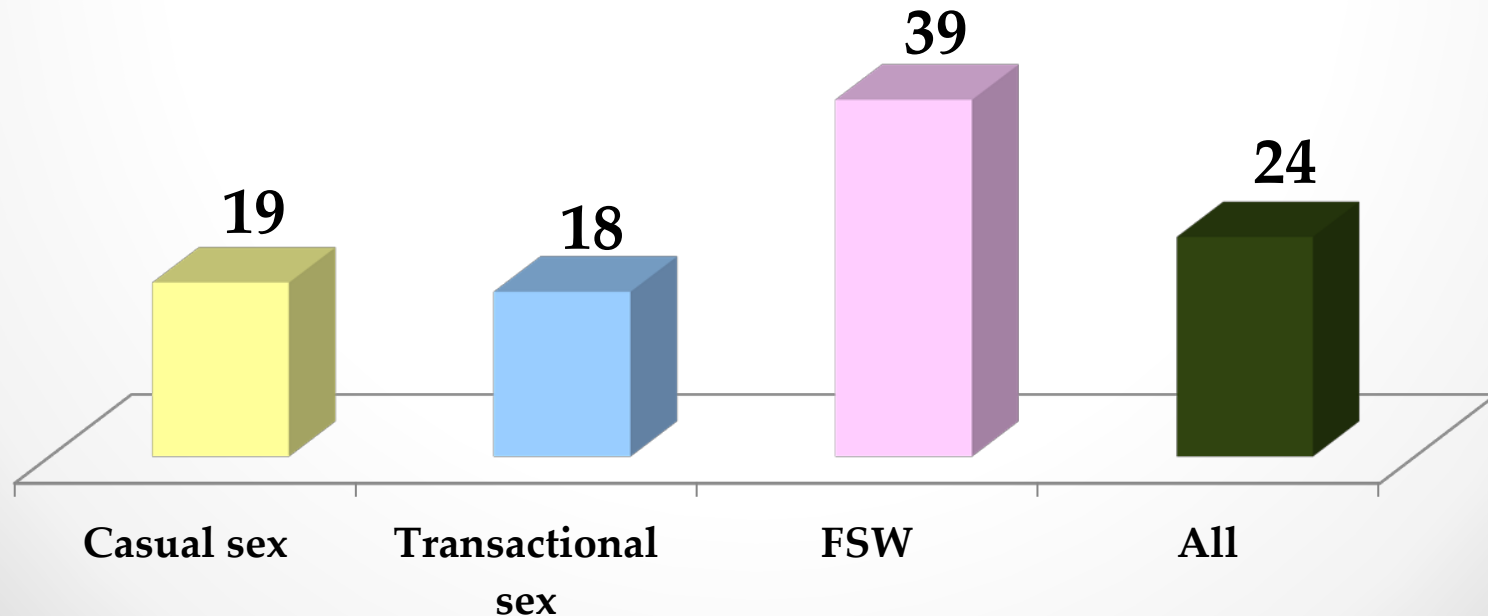
## Survey Sample Size and Target Population



# Sexual Debut: age

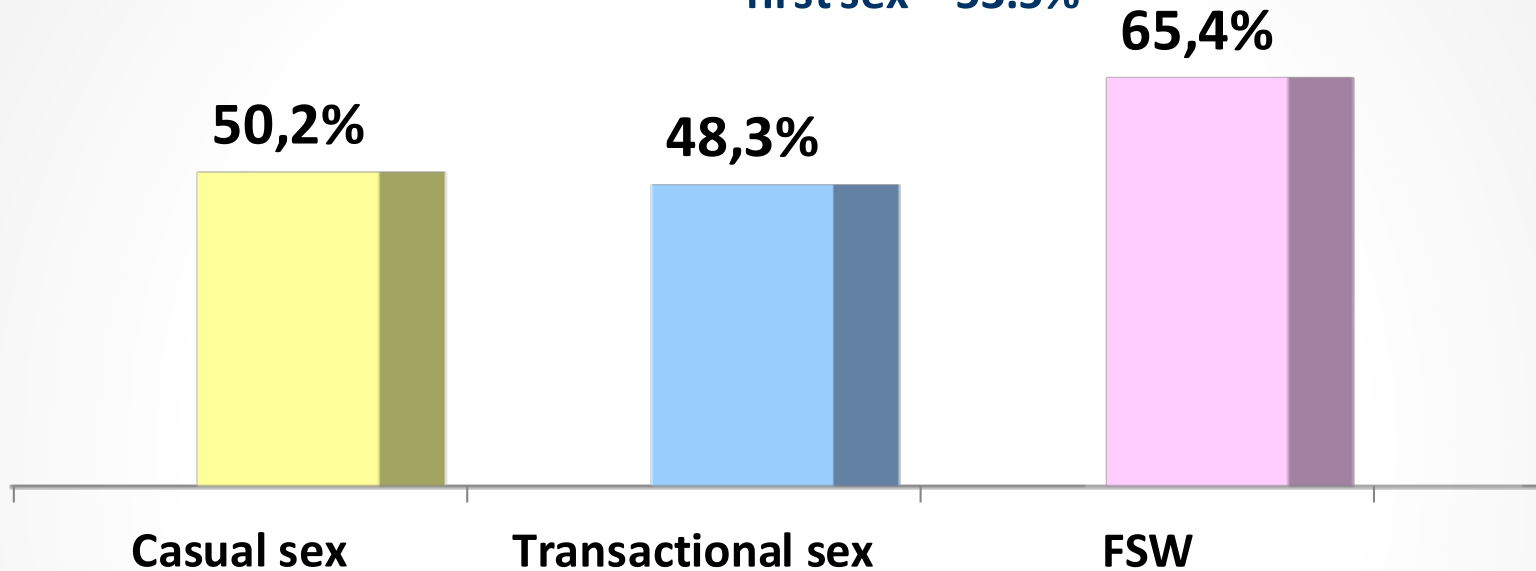
P-value < 0.001	Casual sex (N=898)	Transactional sex (N=469)	FSW (N=450)	MICS (2012 p.)
Average age, years	16.0	16.0	15.0	18.0

Proportion of young women who had their sexual debut before reaching 15 years of age (*at the age of 14 years and younger*),%



# Sexual Debut: *condom use*

Proportion of young women who did not use condom at their first sex – 53.5%



First sex - anal	Casual sex	Transactional sex	FSW
All – 2%	1.2%	4.1%	1.6%



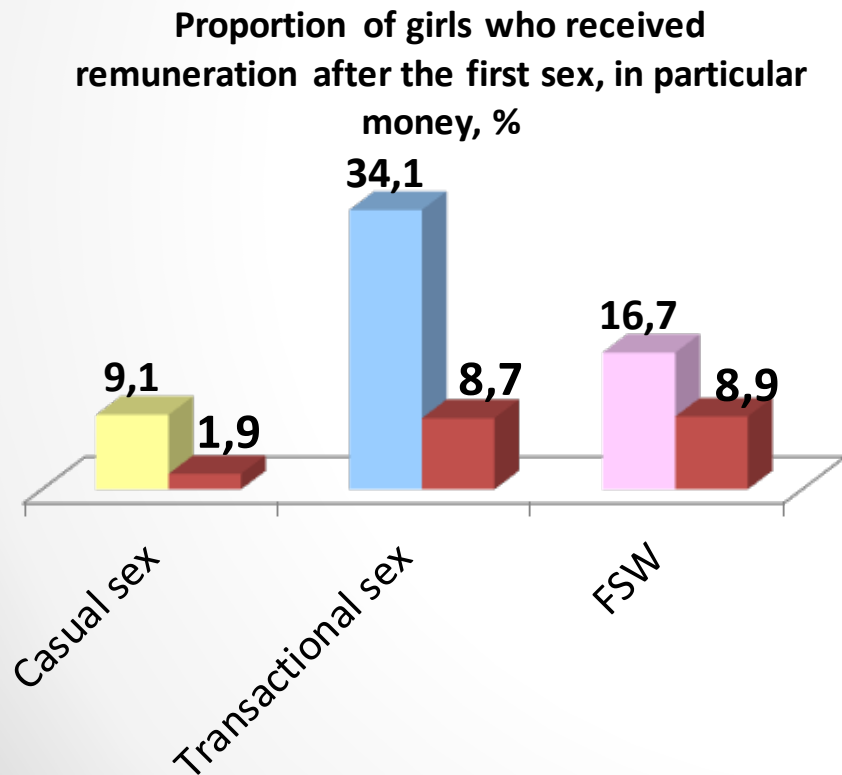
# Sexual Debut: Age of the First Partner

	Casual sex		Transactional sex		FSW		P-value
	Total N	N (%)	Total N	N (%)	Total N	N (%)	
Age at sexual debut (years)	898	16.0	469	16.0	450	15.0	< 0.001
Age of the first partner - older by 10+ years (13.8%)	877	99 (11.3)	488	76 (17.0)	438	68 (15.5)	0.009

- Every 8-th young woman had the first sexual partner who was older by 10+ years.
- **If the first partner was older by 10+ years, the age of sexual debut was younger than 15 years.**

# Sexual Debut: *remuneration for the first sex*

- Every 6-th young woman (17.4%) received 'remuneration' for the first sex.
- **5.4% received money.**



Remuneration for the first sex, %	
Clothes	39
Food	37
Money	31
Alcohol	31
Bednight	28
Other	17
Payment for travel	10
Payment for school	6
Drugs	1

# Forced Sex and Violence

	Casual sex	Transactional sex	FSW
<b>First sex was forced, against their will</b>	7.5	8.4	5.3
<b>Physical violence on the part of sexual partner, ever, among all</b>	8.0	15.6	<b>31.4</b>
<b>Physical violence on the part of sexual partner, ever, among young women &lt; 18 years</b>	5,4	10,0	<b>40,9</b>
<b>Sexual violence, ever</b>	6,2	9,0	6,2
<b>Proportion of girls who were forced to sex by their first sexual partner, among those who were ever forced</b>	74.7	73.7	41.8

# Transition periods

Entry to sex-business ('to become a FSW') – 3 years after the first sex

Entry to sex-business ('to become a FSW') – 2.5 years after the first sex for which money was given as a remuneration

# 75.5% of FSW have never received any program services

For 24.5% FSW duration of “lack of access” was 1 year (*at an average*)

Sex work



Programs for FSW

The surveyed FSW have been working in sex-business for 2 years at an average (IQR: 1-3).

The level of first coverage of FSW with program services - **0.3 persons per year of work in sex-business.**

# Conclusions

- The obtained findings provide grounds to reconsider the resource use, the organization of prevention and treatment (and other) activities, to understand how the existing strategies cover possible hidden groups with high risk and levels of HIV and HCV.
- Reduction of the 'lack of access to services' period
- Development of standards of work with FSW (for NGO and health care facilities), including standards for the frequency of testing (every 6 months).
- Primary prevention activities should be strengthened:
  - implementation of focused information campaigns on individual protection from HIV and HCV infection;
  - focused prevention programs for women engaged in transactional sex;
  - a strengthened 'test yourself' message for young people (especially women);
  - social marketing of condoms;
  - "Say no to violence" campaign;
  - strategy for the 'delayed sexual debut' for adolescents and young adults. •



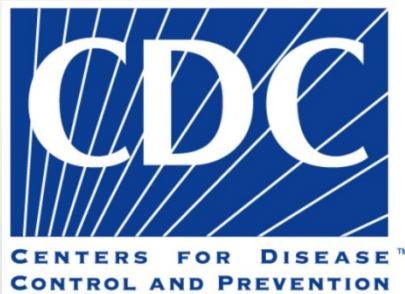
Centre for  
Global Public Health  
University of Manitoba

# Partners



Public Health  
Agency of Canada

Agence de santé  
publique du Canada



Imperial College  
London

